

Remarks

Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled. Claims 2-3 and 5-6 have been amended.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (“RCE”). The RCE filing fee in the amount of \$810 is being submitted herewith by Electronic Funds Transfer. Please charge any other fees for entry of this Amendment and RCE to our deposit account no. 03-3415.

The Examiner has objected to applicant's claims 1 and 4 because of certain informalities. In particular, the Examiner has objected to the limitation “a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, different from each other...” and has suggested amending this limitation to clearly state that the first housing and the second housing are different from each other, such as by inserting the phrase “which are” or the phrase “wherein the first housing and the second housing are” after the comma. Applicant has cancelled applicant's claims 1 and 4, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection with respect to these claims. Applicant's amended dependent claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 recite “a first housing and a second housing, which are different from each other,” as suggested by the Examiner and thus overcome the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ohmori (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,193) patent in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (“AAPA”) in applicant's specification, page 1, lines 17-25. Applicant has cancelled applicant's claims 1 and 4, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejections with respect to these claims. Applicant has amended applicant's claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, and with respect to these

claims, as amended, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's claim 2 has been amended to recite an image recording apparatus comprising a signal processing unit for processing an image signal, a recording unit for recording data by heating a recording medium, a display unit for displaying the image signal, and a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, which are different from each other, wherein the display unit and the signal processing unit are disposed in the first housing and the recording unit is disposed in the second housing so that heat generated by the signal processing unit when the recording unit records the data is prevented from being conveyed directly to the recording unit. Applicant's claim 3 has been similarly amended.

Applicant's claim 5 has been amended to recite an image pickup apparatus comprising a camera unit for picking up an image of an object, a signal processing unit for processing an image signal output from the camera unit, a recording unit for recording data by heating a recording medium, a display unit for displaying the image signal, and a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, which are different from each other, wherein the display unit and the signal processing unit are disposed in the first housing and the camera unit and the recording unit are disposed in the second housing so that heat generated by the signal processing unit when the recording unit records the data is prevented from being conveyed directly to the recording unit. Applicant's claim 6 has been similarly amended.

The constructions recited in applicant's amended independent claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, applicant's amended independent claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 recite constructions in which the main housing comprises a

first housing and a second housing, which are different from each other, and in which the signal processing unit is disposed in one of the first and second housings and the recording unit is disposed in the other one of first and second housings, so that heat generated by the signal processing unit when the recording unit records the data is prevented from being conveyed directly to the recording unit. Such features are not taught or suggested in the cited Ohmori patent or in Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

In response to applicant's arguments filed on July 5, 2007, the Examiner has argued that Ohmori teaches a main housing as claimed in the application and that the main housing appears in FIGS. 1-5 and 7 of Ohmori. In particular, the Examiner has argued that Ohmori's main housing comprises a first housing called a camera 12 and a second housing called an accessory module 10 and that the connection between these housings via the memory card interface creates a main housing. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's arguments and believes that Ohmori does not teach or suggest a main housing that includes two housings, i.e. a first housing and a second housing, therein that are different from one another. Instead, in the Ohmori patent there are two separate housings, i.e. the camera body 14 and the accessory module 10, which can be attached to or detached from one another using the adaptor unit that inserts into a memory card slot in the camera body. Even if the accessory module 10 is attached to the camera 12 in Ohmori, as argued by the Examiner, the housings of the accessory module 10 and the camera remain separate and distinct, with the adaptor unit electrically connecting the accessory module to the camera. See, FIGS. 1-3. There is, therefore, no main housing in the Ohmori patent that would include the camera body 14 and the housing of the accessory module

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Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ohmori of disposing the signal processing unit for processing an image signal in one housing and disposing the recording unit for recording data by heating a recording medium in another housing different from the first housing so that heat generated by the signal processing unit when the recording unit records data is prevented from being conveyed directly to the recording unit. In particular, the camera body in Ohmori includes therein an image sensor 44 for generating image signals, an analog video processor 46 for processing the image signals, an A/D converter 48 for digitizing the image signals, a digital signal processor 52 for compressing the digital image signals, a data memory 54 for storing the compressed image signals and a memory card slot 26 in which a memory card 56 can be housed for storing the compressed image signals thereon. Col. 4, lines 1-14; FIG. 6. When the accessory module 10 of Ohmori is connected to the camera 12, a card terminal 80 of the adaptor unit 20 is inserted into the memory card slot 26 in the camera body and mates with the card connector 59 in the memory card slot 26 so as to provide an electrical connection between the accessory module 10 and memory card interface 58. Col. 4, lines 34-65; FIG. 7. As a result, the camera sees the adaptor as a PCMCIA memory card and communicates image data through the adaptor to the accessory module, which stores it in an image memory 84. Col. 4, lines 60-65.

Thus, the Ohmori patent discloses the signal processing unit, e.g. analog video processor 46, A/D converter 48 and/or digital processor 48, being disposed in the camera body 14, i.e., the first housing. The Ohmori patent also discloses that image data captured by the

camera can be recorded in the data memory 54 or on an external recording medium, such as a memory card or the accessory module which is treated by the camera as a memory card.

However, Ohmori does not mention the recording unit for recording data on the recording medium or where the recording unit is located or disposed.

The Examiner has argued that the adaptor unit 20, the memory card slot 26, the memory card interface 58, the card connector 59 and the card terminal 80 form the recording unit for recording data. However, Ohmori discloses using these elements for forming an electrical connection, or an interface, between the camera and the accessory module for transferring data from the camera to the accessory module, and there is no mention in Ohmori of using these elements as the recording unit.

In addition, even if the adaptor unit, the memory card slot, the memory card interface, the card connector and the card terminal were used as a recording unit, as argued by the Examiner, these elements are shown in FIG. 7 as being disposed within the camera body 14 of the camera when the accessory module is attached to the camera, and are thus disposed in the same housing as the signal processing unit, i.e. the analog video processor 46, the A/D converter 48 and the digital processor 52. Therefore, there is no, and cannot be any, teaching or suggestion in the Ohmori patent of the signal processing unit being disposed in the first housing and the recording unit being disposed in the second housing.

Furthermore, the Examiner has acknowledged that the Ohmori patent does not disclose a recording unit for recording data by heating a recording medium, and has relied on the AAPA as disclosing such a recording medium. However, because Ohmori does not disclose the

recording unit that records data by heating a recording medium, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ohmori, even if combined with the teachings in AAPA, of how such a recording unit would be positioned or disposed relative to the signal processing unit so as to prevent heat generated by the signal processing unit when the recording unit records data from being conveyed directly to the recording unit. Accordingly, even if the Ohmori patent is taken in combination with the AAPA, there is no teaching in these references, nor would it be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to dispose the signal processing unit and the recording unit in different housings so that heat generated by the signal processing unit when the recording unit records the data is prevented from being conveyed to the recording unit.

Therefore, applicant's amended independent claims 2 and 5, each of which recites a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, which are different from each other, and the display unit and the signal processing unit being disposed in the first housing and the recording unit being disposed in the second housing so that heat generated by the signal processing unit when the recording unit records the data is prevented from being conveyed directly to the recording unit, patentably distinguish over the cited Ohmori and AAPA references.

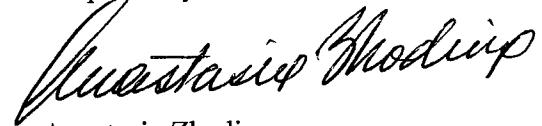
Likewise, applicant's amended independent claims 3 and 6, each of which recite a main housing comprising a first housing and a second housing, which are different from each other, and the display unit and the recording unit being disposed in the first housing and the signal processing unit being disposed in the second housing so that heat generated by the signal processing unit when the recording unit records the data is prevented from being conveyed

directly to the recording unit, thus also patentably distinguish over the cited Ohmori and AAPA references.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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